

Event Name: BFHD COVID-19

Report Period: 2/4/2022 – 3/3/2022	Mission #: 20-0265	Jurisdictions Impacted: Benton & Franklin Counties
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YELLOW HIGHLIGHTS DENOTE NEW/CHANGED INFORMATION

## General Situation/Overview:

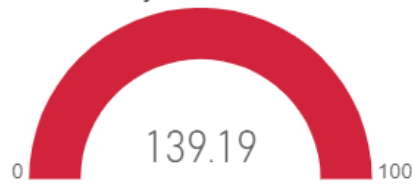
BFHD has been activated 24 months in the COVID-19 response to address the mitigation of COVID-19 disease in our community. The Omicron wave led to our highest case rate in the last two years which stretched our healthcare systems and contact tracing to their limits. During February we had 2145 positive cases of COVID-19 reported and 42 reported deaths. Case rates for Benton County are 164.32/100,000 over the 7-day period ending 2/17 and Franklin Counties are 195.33/100,000. Hospitalization admissions with COVID appear to have peaked, although healthcare systems are still stressed due to the acuity of patients who need care and significant loss of healthcare staff. Vaccines are working to minimize hospitalizations and deaths even with case counts as high as they currently are. Our data shows that the majority of individuals who were hospitalized during the Omicron wave were un-vaccinated, showing that Covid-19 vaccines did a great job of keeping people out of the hospitals systems. Governor Inslee announced that all Covid restrictions will be lifted March 11, including mask mandates in schools and businesses. Masks will still be required in healthcare settings and airplanes due to the federal mandate. BFHD has decreased our activation level to 2.

## Benton and Franklin Counties At-A-Glance:

Total Case Count 3/3/2022	Benton	Franklin	Total
Confirmed*	45115	28081	73,196
Deaths**	438	204	642

Updated: Thursday, March 03, 2022

### Community Transmission Level



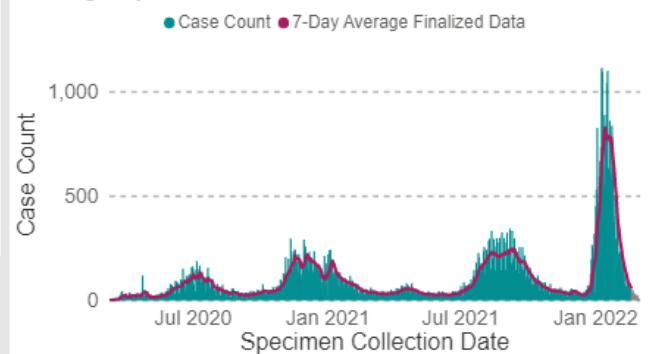
**Low** **Moderate** **Substantial** **High**  
<10 10 to <50 50 to <100 100+

### Benton-Franklin New Confirmed Cases

2/13/2022 - 2/19/2022

<b>421</b> 7-Day PCR Confirmed Count	<b>-54.39%</b> Change from Previous Week
<b>148</b> 7-Day Antigen Count	<b>0%</b> Change from Previous Week

### COVID-19 PCR Confirmed Case Count and 7-Day Average by Positive Test Date



### Benton-Franklin New Hospitalizations

2/13/2022 - 2/19/2022

<b>52</b> 7-Day New Hospitalizations	<b>-14.75%</b> Change from Previous Week
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\***Confirmed:** Detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA using a molecular amplification detection test or by sequencing results.

\*\***Deaths** Due to changes in the Vital Statistics Law (RCW 70.58A) that support increased security on personal information, access to data for death records is more limited. BFHD will report deaths weekly on Thursday's.

\*\*\*Please note that we saw a reduction in total cases as data continues to be corrected and de-duplicated.

\*\*\* Hospital admissions were discontinued being displayed on the BFHD website on 1/27/2022

## State and County Dashboards

1. [COVID-19 Data Dashboard:: Washington State Department of Health](#)
2. [COVID-19 Case Counts - Benton Franklin Health District \(wa.gov\)](#)

### OUTBREAK MITIGATION & DATA:

- Active Outbreaks in the community: these outbreaks meet the definition of an outbreak per DOH guidelines
  - **General Business Community** - 0 active; 15 pending investigations
  - **Long Term Care Facilities** – 15 active; 1 on the watch list
  - **HealthCare Settings** –0 active; 1 pending investigations
  - **Childcare Settings** – 0 active; 0 pending investigation
  - **Schools** –0 active; 0 pending investigations
- Weekly cases have significantly decreased. Over the last 7 days we had 379 cases, the previous 7 days had 575.
- BFHD Outbreak report: [Outbreak Report-will be updated on 3/15](#)
- BFHD Breakthrough report: [Breakthrough Report-will be updated on 3/5](#)

### CONTACT TRACING & CARE COORDINATION:

Contact tracing Is shifting to a more strategic approach. Instead of reaching out to every person who tests positive for COVID-19, BFHD is joining Washington Department of Health to focus CICT efforts on four key areas:

- Outbreak Investigation
- Case investigations in high-risk settings
- Targeted case investigations among those at risk of more severe illness
- Targeted case investigations among those with unusual illness presentation

Those who do not fall within the categories above are strongly encouraged to notify their close contacts if they test positive for COVID. Those who test positive, and their contacts are asked to call the BFHD **COVID-19 line at 509-460-4358 for English or 509-460-4359 for Spanish** if they need assistance.

- Care Coordination team connects people in isolation or quarantine to the services they need to stay isolated. This may be providing a Walgreens Hygiene kit or a Kroger Food box or connecting them with rent assistance, grocery or prescription delivery or other services.

### COVID-19 PREVENTION: VACCINES & OUTREACH:

- BFHD has a mobile vaccine program to provide booster vaccinations to homebound residents. Residents in the Benton-Franklin County area who are homebound can schedule an appointment for their booster vaccination with the front desk.
- Planning started for rollout of pediatric vaccine to providers. Ages 6months -5 years with Pfizer is currently under review. Additional data in April will assist with the decision to approve the vaccine for this range.
- Vaccination ambassador program successfully hosted its first cohort, teaching community members ways to address misinformation in their communities. Another cohort is planned.
- BFHD Information team maintains a list of community vaccine clinics on the BFHD Web page [COVID-19 Vaccine Information - Benton Franklin Health District \(wa.gov\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination by Benton & Franklin Census Tract Map - February 2022 \\*](#) -This new map overlays vaccination rates along with Social Vulnerability tracks.

- BFHD continually updates the webpages. This period the schools page, the vaccine page, the business page, and the FAQ pages were updated. FAQ's: <https://covid19.bfhd.wa.gov/covid-19-vaccine-information/>

### COMMUNITY TESTING:

- **CBC-West Test Site:** To date the site has administered **212,770 COVID tests**. The 14-day positivity rate at the test site is **18.52%** in the previous 7-day period.

- **Richland Community Test Site:** This site is operated by University of Washington. To date the site has administered **21,526 COVID tests**. The 7-day positivity rate at this test site is **14.58%**.
- **BFHD testing page:** [Testing Sites - Benton Franklin Health District \(wa.gov\)](#)
- BFHD is currently providing testing depot services to long term care facilities, H2A, Food processors/Agriculture workers, congregate settings such as jails, and homeless shelters, EMS/FIRE/PD and other critical infrastructure facilities.
- Our community test sites continued to decrease in February with positivity rates decreasing as well.
- The state has replenished its supply of at home tests available for delivery at <https://savviescovidhometest.org>. **Each household can now order twice per month while supplies last.** Kits available from the federal government can be ordered at <https://www.covidtests.gov>.

#### **PUBLIC INFORMATION:**

- BFHD Media briefings are being held as needed to communicate updates. To receive an invite email [EOC.PIO@bfhd.wa.gov](mailto:EOC.PIO@bfhd.wa.gov) to get a media briefing invite.
- Every other Tuesday at 2:00pm - BFHD hosts local elected officials and decision-makers conference call

#### **PPE RECEIVING/DISTRIBUTION:**

- Requests for PPE request can be sent to either Sean Davis at: [sdavis@co.franklin.wa.us](mailto:sdavis@co.franklin.wa.us) for Franklin County requests or Deanna Davis at: [d.davis@bces.wa.gov](mailto:d.davis@bces.wa.gov) for Benton County requests.
- List of PPE vendors the state uses to procure PPE items  
<https://des.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/documents/ContractingPurchasing/covid19/Vendors.pdf>

#### **CURRENT RISKS:**

- Case rates have continued to decrease; however, with the mask mandates lifting, we anticipate that the communities may see an uptick in cases again
- Outbreaks are finally decreasing within the business communities and schools
- Vaccine hesitancy/resistance in our community continues to be high
- Very few of our pediatric population are vaccinated, efforts to improve vaccine status continues to lag behind state metrics
- At home tests continue to gain in popularity, so Benton Franklin Health District has adjusted the metrics used to evaluate disease burden. See [new data dashboard](#).

#### **WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION:**

- Benton-Franklin Health District- All News: <https://www.bfhd.wa.gov>
- Washington State Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- REDI Healthcare Coalition: <https://srhd.org/programs-and-services/hcc/eei->

#### **DISTRIBUTED TO:**

Local Health Jurisdiction: Management Team, EOC/ECC Staff, all BFHD Staff  
 Region 8: Local Emergency Response Coordinators, Emergency Management agencies, healthcare partners, Fire/EMS agencies  
 WA State: Regional Emergency Response Coordinators, DOH Duty Officer  
 Eastern WA: REDi Coalition Duty Officer  
 Cross Border: Oregon Regions 6 and 9 Liaisons